

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

D.C., a minor by and through his
Guardian Ad Litem, HELEN GARTER,
on behalf of himself and all others
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, A.B. AND
JESSIE POLINSKY CHILDREN'S
CENTER, SAN DIEGO COUNTY
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY,

Defendants.

Case No.: 15cv1868-MMA (NLS)

**ORDER CONVERTING
MANDATORY SETTLEMENT
CONFERENCE TO BE VIA
TELECONFERENCE**

A Mandatory Settlement Conference ("MSC") is set in this case for October 6, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. ECF No. 136. Confidential settlement briefs are due by September 29, 2021. *Id.*

In light of the Chief Judge Orders regarding suspension of certain in-person proceedings due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Court **CONVERTS** the MSC to be held **via videoconference** for all attendees, per instructions below. The parties shall follow the following procedures:

1 1. The Court will use its official Zoom video conferencing account to hold the
2 MSC. **If you are unfamiliar with Zoom:** Zoom is available on computers through
3 a download on the Zoom website (<https://zoom.us/meetings>). Participants **must**
4 **use laptops or desktop computers** for the conference. Participants are
5 encouraged to create an account, install Zoom and familiarize themselves with
6 Zoom in advance of the MSC.¹ There is a cost-free option for creating a Zoom
7 account.

8 2. Prior to the start of the MSC, the Court will email each participant an
9 invitation to join a Zoom video conference. Participants shall join the video
10 conference by following the ZoomGov Meeting hyperlink in the invitation.
11 **Participants who do not have Zoom already installed on their device when**
12 **they click on the ZoomGov Meeting hyperlink will be prompted to download**
13 **and install Zoom before proceeding.** Zoom may then prompt participants to
14 enter the password included in the invitation. All participants will be placed in a
15 waiting room until the MSC begins.

16 3. Each participant should plan to join the Zoom video conference **at least five**
17 **minutes before** the start of the MSC to ensure that the conference begins
18 promptly. **The Zoom e-mail invitation may indicate an earlier start time, but**
19 **the MSC will begin at the Court-scheduled time.**

20 4. Zoom's functionalities will allow the Court to conduct the MSC as it
21 ordinarily would conduct an in-person one. The Court will divide participants into
22 separate, confidential sessions, which Zoom calls Breakout Rooms.² In a Breakout
23 Room, the Court will be able to communicate with participants from a single party

25 ¹ For help getting started with Zoom, visit: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started>

26 ² For more information on what to expect when participating in a Zoom Breakout
27 Room, visit: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115005769646>

1 in confidence. Breakout Rooms will also allow parties and counsel to
2 communicate confidentially without the Court.

3 5. No later than **September 29, 2021**, counsel for each party shall send an e-
4 mail to the Court at efile_stormes@casd.uscourts.gov containing the following:

- 5 i. The **name and title of each participant**, including all parties and party
6 representatives with full settlement authority, claims adjusters for insured
7 defendants, and the primary attorney(s) responsible for the litigation;
- 8 ii. An **e-mail address for each participant** to receive the Zoom video
9 conference invitation; and
- 10 iii. A **telephone number where each participant** may be reached so that if
11 technical difficulties arise, the Court will be in a position to proceed
12 telephonically instead of by video conference. (If counsel prefers to have
13 all participants of their party on a single conference call, counsel may
14 provide a conference number and appropriate call-in information,
15 including an access code, where all counsel and parties or party
16 representatives for that side may be reached as an alternative to providing
17 individual telephone numbers for each participant.)

18 6. All participants shall display the same level of professionalism during the
19 MSC and be prepared to devote their full attention to the MSC as if they were
20 attending in person.

21 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

22 Dated: September 24, 2021



23 Hon. Nita L. Stormes
24 United States Magistrate Judge
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